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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6999
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

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SUBJECT: BHUTANESE PM AND FM CONGRATULATE A/S BLAKE ON HIS
APPOINTMENT

1. (U) The Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi sent post copies of letters from Prime Minister Jigmi Thinley and Foreign Minister Ugyen Tshering to Assistant Secretary Bob Blake congratulating him on his appointment. Once we receive the original letters, we will send them to SCA/INS.

2. (U) Begin text of letter from Prime Minister Thinley:

10 June, 2009.

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people and Government of Bhutan, I have the pleasure to extend our heartiest felicitations on your appointment as the Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs. Your appointment to this high post is a clear reflection of His Excellency President Obama's confidence and faith in your wide experience and abilities to address the complex challenges in our region. I wish you every success in discharging your important responsibilities.

I would also avail this opportunity to wish Your Excellency and family good health and happiness.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

//signed//

Jigmi Y. Thinley
Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Robert O. Blake,
Assistant Secretary of State for
South and Central Asian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

End text.

3. (U) Begin text of letter from Foreign Minister Tshering:

10 June, 2009

Your Excellency,

Please accept my warmest felicitations on Your Excellency's appointment as the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs.

Your appointment to this important post is a clear reflection of your diplomatic skills and commitment to peace and harmony. I wish you every success and fulfillment in discharging the important and complex mandates of this high office for greater well-being and harmony in this vast region.

I avail of this opportunity to convey my best wishes for your personal well-being and happiness and that of your family.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

//signed//

Ugyen Tshering
Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Robert O. Blake,
Assistant Secretary of State for
South and Central Asian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

End text.
BURLEIGH